(c) whether Government is working on increasing international cooperation with both South-Eastern countries and USA as part of its maritime policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) In 2002, the Indian naval vessels, during their normal patrolling duty, provided escort to the ships of the United States of America passing through the Straits of Malacca to meet the challenge of possible terrorist attacks through the sea.

(b) to (d) The cooperation initiatives between Indian Navy and the navies of the South-East Asian countries and the United States of America provide for joint naval exercises, coordinated patrols, training exchanges, high level and working level visits and assistance in specific areas.

Victoria Cross

†3009. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) details of recipients of 'Victoria Cross' in the country at present;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are so many people in the country in respect of whom an announcement was made to confer the said award on them but the award could not be conferred on them;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these persons have requested the Government to cause the award to be conferred on them; and

(e) if so, the details of action being taken by Government to cause the award to be conferred on them?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Thirty Indians were awarded Victoria Cross during the First and Second World War as per the details at Statement I and II (*See* below)

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (e) This is a pre-independence award and no such records are available.

Statement I

List of Recipients of Victoria Cross—First World War

Sl. No.	Name	Name of the Unit	Award date
1.	Sepoy Khudabdad Khan	129 Duke of Connaught's Own Regiment	31 October 1914
2.	Naik Darwan Singh	1/39 Garhwal Rifles	24 November 1914
3.	Rifleman Gobar Singh Negi	2/39 Garhwal Rifles	10 March 1915
4.	Jemadav Mir Dast	55 Coke's Rifles	26 April 1915
5.	Rifleman Kulbir Thapa	2/3 Queen Alexandra's Own Gorkha Rifles	25 September 1915
6.	Lance Naik Lala	3/17 Dogra	21 January 1916
7.	Naik Shahammad Khan	Punjabis	October 1916
8.	Rifleman Karan Bahadur Rana	2/3 Gorkha Rifles	21 June 1918

Statement II

List of recipients of Victoria Cross—Second World War

Sl. No.	Name	Name of the Unit	Award date
1.	Havildar P Singh	8PUNJAB	19 January 1943
2.	Naib Subedar Nand Singh	1SIKH	12 March 1944
3.	Jemadar Abdul Hafiz (Posthumous)	9 JAT	06 April 1944
4.	Subedar Major & Honorary Captain T Kamal Ram	2 Rajput	12 May 1944
5.	Subedar Major & Honorary Captain Lama Ganju	7 Gorkha Rifles	12 June 1944
6.	Rifleman Pun TB	5Gorkha Rifles	23 June 1944
7.	Honorary Captain Rai Agan Singh	2/5 Gorkha Rifles (FF) 5 RGR (FF)	24 June 1944

Sl. No.	Name	Name of the Unit	Award date
8.	Subedar Thapa NB (Posthumous)	5th Royal Gorkha Rifles	25/26 June 1944
9.	Rifleman Thapa SB (Posthumous)	1/9 Gorkha Rifles	18 September 1944
10.	Subedar Ram Sarup Singh (Posthumous)	1 PUNJAB	25 October 1944
11.	Naik Ghade Y	3/5 Maratha Light Infantry	02 November 1944
12.	Rifleman Gurung T (Posthumous)	5th Royal Gorkha Rifles	10 November 1944
13.	Subedar Major & Honorary Captain Bhandari Ram	16 Baluch	22 November 1944
14.	Lance Naik Sher Shah (Posthumous)	16 PUNJAB	20 January 1945
15.	Jemadar P Singh (Posthumous)	13FFR	17 February 1945
16.	Subedar Major & Honorary Captain Gian Singh	5 SIKH	02 March 1945
17.	Naik Fazal Din (Posthumous)	10 Baluch	02 March 1945
18.	Rifleman Gurung B	2nd King Edward VII'S Own Gorkha Rifles	05 March 1945
19.	Judge KS (Posthumous)	15 Punjab Regiment	18 March 1945
20.	Sepoy Ali Haiddar	13 FFR	09 April 1945
21.	Havildar & Honorary Naib Subedar Jadhao N	1/5 Maratha Light Infantry	09 April 1945
22.	Rifleman Gurung L	4/8 Gorkha Rifles	13 May 1945

Steps to reduce bird hits of defence aircrafts

3010. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHAN RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bird hits have been identified as the major causes of aircrafts crashes leading to loss of invaluable lives and expensive Defence aircraft;